

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained earlier today and missed several roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

1. H. Con. Res. 301—A resolution regarding U.S. Commitment to Taiwan—roll call #300—Yea.

2. H. Res. 392—A resolution relating to the importance of Japanese American Relations—roll call #299—Yea.

3. H. Con. Res. 208—A resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding access to affordable housing and expansion of home ownership opportunities—roll call #298—Yea.

4. H.R. 3874—"The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Amendments Act"—roll call #297—Yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to events in the 15th Congressional District of Michigan, I was unavoidably detained for several House roll-call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 3874, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act; H. Con. Res. 208, Sense of the Congress Resolution Regarding Access to Affordable Housing; H. Res. 392, Relating to the Importance of Japanese American Relations; and H. Con. Res. 301, Regarding the Commitment of the United States to Taiwan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H. Con. Res. 301, regarding United States Commitment to Taiwan, I would have voted "aye."

□ 1815

REPORT ON H.R. 4274, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. PORTER, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-635) on the bill (H.R. 4274), making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULSHOF). All points of order are reserved on the bill.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1050

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 1050, which was a bill originally introduced by Rep-

resentative Dellums of California, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 4 of rule XXII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SUBMISSION BY SECRETARY OF ENERGY OF PLAN FOR DISPOSITION OF DEPLETED URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2316) to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a plan to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, in order to allow the gentleman to explain his request, I yield to the gentleman for an explanation.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Ohio's request for an explanation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill requires the Secretary of Energy to submit a plan to ensure that monies already accrued by the United States Enrichment Corporation are utilized for their intended purpose, and that is the cleanup of depleted uranium hexafluoride waste. The corporation is nearing privatization. Without congressional action, there is no mechanism to ensure that monies will be available to deal with the cleanup of depleted uranium.

Since the bill was passed in the Senate, the Committee on Commerce has had discussions with the Department of Energy, the Department of Treasury, and the Office of Management and Budget to discuss this legislation. It is my understanding the administration has no objection to S. 2316, and I recommend its approval by the House to ensure that the money accrued by USEC will be spent for its intended purpose.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) for a further explanation.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding.

I also would like to strongly support Senate bill 2316, which will ensure that the funds collected over the years by the U.S. Enrichment Corporation for the cleanup of spent uranium canisters in Paducah, Kentucky will be used for their intended purpose.

This bill will not only save American taxpayers millions of dollars in pos-

sible future cleanup, but more importantly, it protects hundreds of jobs in my State.

By passing this bill today, the House will set in motion a plan that will one day lead to the construction and operation of a new uranium cleanup facility in Paducah, Kentucky and Portsmouth, Ohio that will treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride. This will clearly make our community safer from this environmental hazard.

I am glad to see that the House is taking quick action on this matter, because without our effort the nearly \$400 million in cleanup money that has been set aside by the USEC could be lost.

I would like to thank the majority leader; the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY); the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL); and all of those that had something to do with bringing this bill to the floor in this expedited manner.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, although I do not intend to object, I would like to take an opportunity to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BAESLER) for working with me to make this unanimous consent possible.

What this will accomplish is very important. It means that money that was collected for the cleanup will be used for its intended purpose. Jobs will be created in the Piketon, Ohio and the Paducah, Kentucky communities, jobs that are desperately needed by those who may lose their jobs as a result of the privatization of this industry. These are men and women who have helped our country win the Cold War and we need to look out after their well-being.

This bill will also make it possible for our constituents in Piketon, Ohio, and Paducah, Kentucky to live in safer, healthier communities, and for that we should all be thankful.

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2316, a bill critical to Kentucky families. While plans for privatization of the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) are underway on Wall Street, folks in Kentucky are worried about their future. If the USEC is privatized, hundreds of jobs could be lost between two facilities located in Portsmouth, Ohio and Paducah, Kentucky. Passage of this bill is essential to show these hard working families that privatization can also mean job creation.

Fees have been collected from utility customers of the United States Enrichment Corporation to pay for the cost of cleaning up depleted uranium hexafluoride "tails" or waste. If USEC is privatized, the money that has already been set aside would revert back to the U.S. Department of Treasury. It would be an injustice and simply unfair if the money is not used for its intended purpose of cleaning up the tails—55 percent of which are stored in Paducah. Under this legislation, the money from the fee collection would be used to construct an on-site facility for disposing of the